



THE DOC SCOOP



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Happy Halloween!!!



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TOP POLICY MAKERS VISIT FORT CAMPBELL



Mr. James T. Inman



Mr. Bruce Sullivan

The DOC was honored to have two of the most prestigious policy makers in the Department of Defense visit on Monday October 21st. Mr. James T. Inman, Department of Army's Director of Acquisition Policy, and Mr. Bruce Sullivan, Director of the Department of Defense Purchase Card Program Management Office came to Fort Campbell primarily to present "Superior Civilian Service Awards" to the following individuals: June Fletcher-Schiewe for successful award of DA mandatory Blanket Purchase Agreements for office supplies; Patty Shaffer for significant contributions to the success of "paperless contracting" and other agency-wide automation initiatives; and Lynn Worsham for her numerous accomplishments in improving Government Purchase Card processes/procedures throughout the Army.

Mr. Inman presented these and a number of other Fort Campbell awards to various members of the DOC. The Director, Staff and several action officers briefed Inman and Sullivan on a number of installation contracting issues. Both dignitaries expressed deep care and concern for soldiers, their family members and the civilian workforce who support them. Mr. Inman was in the uniformed service for four years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam from 1966-1968. Active duty and installation experiences give him a special appreciation for challenges the Garrison Activities face each day. Both Inman and Sullivan offered their assistance to help in any way possible and specifically requested information on contingency contracting, automation, training and other issues critical to the welfare and efficiency of the acquisition workforce. Mr. Sullivan will be retiring in the next few months, but Mr. Inman indicated that he very much enjoyed himself and planned to return when he had more time to visit.

Operation Enduring Freedom Deployment

By MAJ Scott Bruner

Shortly after the towers went down last September, the Contingency Contracting Team began its "pre-combat" checks and preparations to make sure it was prepared to deploy to fulfill its primary mission: to provide contracting support wherever and whenever it is needed. This includes deployments in support of training (NTC/JRTC/Bright Star, etc.), humanitarian relief missions, and combat operations. The orders to deploy came in December 2001, and most of the team spent the next six months in support of the 101st Airborne Division's Task Force Rakkasan, based at Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The Contingency Contracting Team, when at full strength of five personnel, is composed of two officers assigned to HHC DISCOM, and an officer and two NCOs assigned to HHC 101st CSG. While not deployed, the team hangs its berets in the Garrison and Tenant Division of the DOC, where it trains and prepares full time for its wartime mission. Its primary training consists of executing a variety of contracting actions on behalf of the DOC and DOC customers. Working at the DOC gives the team the benefit of training on real-world contract actions while having ready access to the DOC's civilian contracting expertise. It also provides the opportunity to interact on a daily basis with the units it will likely be supporting in a deployed scenario.

The team arrived into a very immature (both contracting-wise and operationally) theater. One contingency contracting officer (CKO) went to Kandahar, Afghanistan with TF Rakkasan, and two went with the 561st CSB, which was in direct support of TF Rakkasan but split-based out of Qatar and Pakistan. Information flow and communications were such that the three CKOs didn't know where each other ended up for several weeks! At that point, the two CKOs with the 561st consolidated in Qatar, and good communications were established with the CKO in Kandahar. With the CKOs linked together again, we could actually function like a team, and contracting support of the fight in southwestern Afghanistan improved dramatically.

The CKOs in Qatar were conveniently based adjacent to a major modern metropolitan marketplace, where many of the 561st's and TF Rakkasans needs could be fulfilled. What they couldn't buy there could be ordered from other countries in the Persian Gulf region and from stateside. They would then ensure the items got on Air Force transport into Kandahar. The CKO in Kandahar, however, faced a different situation entirely. Kandahar City was a third world economy, and could supply only very rudimentary requirements, and one had to leap across the open sewers to get to the shops! There were no yellow pages and no telephone or cellular system to connect vendors with customers. Fortunately, the local warlord was all too happy to provide his assistance in obtaining what items we could get there, and until the end insisted that he was providing to us "at cost," as he would not want to "profit off of his friends." (Thanks, buddy!) We were able to establish relationships via email with Pakistani vendors (who could provide almost anything) who actually made their deliveries over land after paying the obligatory bribes at the border.

"...and one had to leap across the open sewers to get to the shops!"

You can reach the Contingency Contracting Team at 798-7823/7822/7562/7851.

DEPLOYMENT PLANNING

Help us help you when planning for deployment. Provide the Contingency Contracting Cell equipment density lists with repair parts that are difficult to get through the supply system. This will allow us to do market research in advance. Once we have known sources that can deliver quickly, we can get you what you need when you need it. Invite us to planning meetings so we can get a feel for the mission and what you might need once you hit the ground. Consider establishing a secure central receiving point to ensure control and accountability of delivered goods as well as providing a central point for issuance of receiving reports. Vendors cannot get paid if DFAS doesn't have a receiving report. Many vendors refuse to do business with the Government because of payment problems — please make sure you're not the cause. Be prepared to have a person available to act as the Contracting Officer's Representative for services. This person is critical to ensure we get what we pay for and to act as the eyes and ears of the Contracting Officer. Be aware that local purchase procedures away from the installation are basically the same as the procedures when on the installation when you are being supported by a Contingency Contracting Officer.

Look for the updated Customer Support Handbook for Deployments — it will be available soon on the intranet.

BUYING OFFICE SUPPLIES

Effective 1 Oct, DA has made it mandatory to purchase all office products from either Eagle Mart or newly awarded Army Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA) against certain GSA contracts. Cardholders are required to use Eagle Mart as the first priority. If the product is not available from Eagle Mart within 24 hours, then the cardholder must purchase from one of the 12 BPA. The BPA can be accessed at <http://dodemall.dla.mil>. Ten of the 12 BPA have been added to the web site and the others will be added soon. We recommend you browse the site and become familiar with using it.

You may be wondering why the Army made the decision to make certain sources mandatory. There were several issues considered: Leveraging the large purchasing power of the Army to obtain better pricing, ensuring compliance with the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act which mandates purchase of certain items from the National Industries of the Blind (NIB) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH), as well as other considerations such as recycled products purchasing.

Please ensure you follow proper procedures for purchasing office supplies so you don't place your credit card authority in jeopardy. If you have any questions, you may contact the Credit Card Team at 798-7807, 7808, 7333 or 7800.

ACA ROADSHOW AND NCMA LUNCHEON BIG SUCCESS

We were pleased and honored to welcome the "Dynamic Duo" of COL Chuck Guta and Ms. Beverly Thomas, leaders in the transition of installation contracting to the new Army Contracting Agency (ACA). As the Acting Southern Region Commander, COL Guta graciously agreed to bring the ACA Road Show to Fort Campbell. The presentation included the history behind the consolidation, the ACA goals and objectives, transition challenges, agency support and relationships and the organizational structure. Some of the key points addressed included: (1) Objectives — Eliminate redundancies, leverage Army-wide requirements/economies of scale, allow installations to focus on core competencies (contracting is not a core competency for the installation commander), improve service and align and synchronize with IMA and NETCOM. (2) DOC will remain at each installation to award service contracts under \$500,000 and one-time construction contracts, administer all assigned contracts, provide acquisition planning and contract requirements assistance, serve as the single face for contracting and principal business advisor to the GC. (3) The ACA serves as the executive agent for the Army for the following programs: The Standard Procurement System, Federal Procurement Data System, Procurement Management Assistance, Acquisition Excellence, DOD Purchase Card, A-76 Procurements, Service and Contingency contracting.



COL Chuck Guta

While the changes seem overwhelming at times, the ACA is determined to make the actual transition transparent to the customer. The local DOC will continue to be the "first line of defense" for the customer and there should be no degradation of service.

Immediately following the ACA Road Show, Angela Jacobs, president of the local chapter of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), opened the chapter meeting. Debbie Jenkins served as moderator for a panel discussion on "evolution of government specifications." Members of the panel were Ted Reece, PWBC, Mary Collins, NAF Contracting, Mike Keel, Vanguard Contractors, Inc., Beverly Thomas, ACA Southern Region, Roy Murray, DOC, Fred Anderson, KCA, Inc., and Rodney Cacal, Housing Div. Most of the discussion centered around the advantages of using performance-oriented statements of work (PWS). A PWS tells a contractor what we want in terms of results and not "how to." The contractor then tells us how he intends to accomplish the work and prices his offer accordingly. This allows infusion of state-of-the-art processes and products in government contracts, resulting in greater efficiency and cost effectiveness. All members of the panel were in agreement that the evolution from design to performance-oriented specifications was a major improvement in the way we contract for our services.